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10/24/2012 Minutes

Minutes for the ABAC meeting of October 24, 2012

Board members attending were Jack Johnson, Christopher Tonkin, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Scott Smith, and Doug Greenfield. Also present were Joey Glushko, Chad Gibson and Mike Rademacher.

*Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. The minutes from the September 19 meeting were approved as amended.

ABAC report to the Board of Selectmen and reappointment of ABAC Board members. The ABAC Annual Report was well received by the Selectmen. There were a few questions but no objections to the report. Christopher and Jack were reappointed by the Selectmen to their positions on the ABAC Board at the same meeting. Doug asked if the ABAC Annual Report should be posted on the web site. Our answer was yes.

TAC report. Scott told us that there is no new news on The Mass. Ave. Project. Ave. Redevelopment Project. Stephan interjected that there is a group in East Arlington petitioning to get this issue put on the ballot. Scott also told us that there have been no new developments in the CLAMP project or the signalization of the Mill St. crossing. TAC has a working group looking at the Lake St. minuteman bikeway crossing. We can expect a report in November.

Recreational Trails Grant Program. We briefly discussed the trail assessment ride, attended by Joey, Stephan and Christopher, that took place last Sunday. We also reiterated that we need to request strongly that the DPW stripe the path and the root heaves be repaired.

Outreach to the Police Department for revision of the "Bike Awareness" message. We reviewed the new police brochure on bicycle safety. Jack would like to see an endorsement from ABAC on the back of the brochure. We discussed the graphics and worked on rephrasing some of the advice given. Chad would like to see a recommendation for a rear facing red light on all bicycles ridden at night as well as reflectors on the pedals. We made a number of additional changes to the brochure. Joey will send us the file and we will return comments to her. She will collate and then forward our comments to the Police Department.

Mike Rademacher joined us for a wide-ranging discussion of bicycle accommodations on the road and the bike path. Mike gave us an overview of the repaving of Mass. Ave. between Brattle St. and Lockeland Ave. We discussed the merits of widening the parking lane and whether there should be sharrows painted in the travel lane. We also discussed the possibility of striping bike lanes along some of the road as there is not enough width in some spots for continuous lanes. Chad objected to the original plan because he felt that it includes very little in the way of bicycle accommodations. We all agreed that we would like to see a plan with more specific bicycle accommodations and some kind of time commitment for its implementation.

Mike also told us that they have hired a contractor to repair the worst root heaves in the bike path. This work should be completed before winter. We asked Mike if the repairs will include the large heave near the bike path bridge at Alewife. He wasn't sure and made a note of the location. We also asked that the center line on the path be repainted in the spring. We concluded the discussion with Mike by talking about the issue of trash removal on the bike path. We neglected to discuss the topic of a policy for striping roads in town as they are repaved.

Outreach to the Police Department for revision of the "Bike Awareness" message. The subgroup working on this project has not yet met. Joey will contact the police and asked whether the new brochure discussed earlier in the meeting will replace the laminated card we were previously shown. We were supposed to hear about bikeway usage guidelines but it was tabled until the November meeting.

Moving Together articles for the Arlington Advocate. Joey asked that the group writing the articles be cognizant of the fact that the master plan is being formulated and that they wait for the presentation of the plan before publishing articles that could be misconstrued as Town policy.

ABAC Winter Social. Jack will ask Sara Bresnick, who is a cycling coach, to talk about training. Chad suggested that we ask Scott Mullen, who works with Hubway, to talk about their expansion plans. We discussed whether to have one or two speakers and whether there will be enough room for a demonstration of a Hubway bicycle. We decided that two speakers are possible and will pursue both.

Spring outreach. Joey asked if we want to have some kind of event to celebrate bicycle commuting during bike month. We discussed a breakfast and a repair clinic on the bike path but came to no conclusions. We will discuss this topic further in an upcoming meeting. Chad agreed to lead the safety check activity.

Other topics. We discussed whether we should support various bike commuter-friendly infrastructure changes in Cambridge and Somerville. We decided that our endorsement, while probably not crucial, might help to swing the implementation of some of these projects. Christopher has agreed to write the letter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33.

*Notes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller